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International Application No PCT/US2004/032008 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N21/86 G01N G01N21/27 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GOIN GOIJ IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 4 160 646 A (FURUTANI YOSHIKAZU ET AL) 10 July 1979 (1979-07-10) 5-10, 12-17. 19-22 column 2, line 52 - line 56 column 5, line 5 - line 25 column 5, line 52 - line 60 column 6, line 64 - column 7, line 8 column 7, line 34 - line 36 column 8, line 3 - line 34 figures 1,5 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of malling of the international search report

01/02/2005

D'Alessandro, D

Authorized officer

Name and mailing address of the ISA

25 January 2005

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